

EDITORIALS

Santa Comes to Town

Torrance area residents by the thousands bundled up in sweaters and coats Friday night and jammed into the downtown area to see one of the most colorful parades this city has ever seen as Santa Claus made his official entry into the city—much to the delight of the hundreds upon hundreds of kiddies crowding along the parade route.

Police were quick to state that the Friday night crowd in downtown Torrance was probably the largest ever gathered in the city—and considerable credit for this civic venture should go to the many volunteers who worked long hours to bring such an event about.

Credit is due to Mary Pagac for dreaming up the Santaland and pushing it to completion, to Sgt. D. C. Cook and members of the Torrance Mounted Police for supervising the formation, and march of the hour-long parade, to members of the Torrance service clubs, to merchants, and to participants in the parade, to Torrance new car dealers who opened their sparkling auto show, to those many merchants who went from door-to-door collecting funds for the brilliantly lighted Christmas decorations throughout the downtown area.

The entire program which is being presented to the residents and shoppers in Torrance this year, represents a long stride in civic pride, and is one which should not go unrecognized by responsible officials, civic leaders, and residents.

Hats off to those who are responsible for Friday's splendid show.

A Challenge Stands

The action of George Binder, major property owner in the downtown Torrance area, in commending the City Council for its decision on the lease agreement for commercial development of a portion of Torrance Municipal Airport stands today as a challenge to other downtown property owners and businessmen.

Mr. Binder's gesture indicates that he, at least, has not lost faith in the potential development of downtown Torrance. He has further demonstrated his faith in the downtown area by beginning the construction of a large commercial building in the heart of the city within the past month.

The publishers of the HERALD, who likewise have a large investment in downtown Torrance, share this faith with Mr. Binder and refuse to subscribe to the fantasy that shopping areas planned in other sections of the city will spell the doom of the downtown shopping district.

Every resident, businessman, and professional man in Torrance should expect to reap untold benefits from a healthy commercial growth in this area.

We would like to think that Mr. Binder, in his unqualified approval of the lease arrangement, is expressing a belief that such developments will bring a better return to him for his many investments in downtown Torrance. We hope it does.

Those Double Sessions

Torrance is not the only city plagued with the double session problems, figures released by the county superintendent of schools indicate.

The number of students on double session in both Los Angeles County and Torrance continues high this year, despite construction of many new classrooms.

The figures showed that 79,723 elementary students out of 659,340 students were on double sessions, while in Torrance it was 4867 out of 12,480.

A spokesman for the county superintendent said that many areas which have grown rapidly, such as Torrance, have had many double session problems, while many older areas are well taken care of. Other areas with serious school problems due to the mushrooming growth are the Whittier and Covina areas, he said.

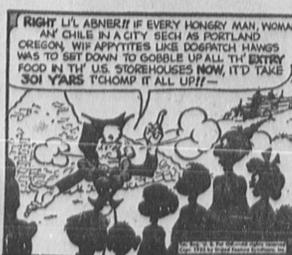
Despite the fact that many new classrooms were built during the past year, the county double sessions figure was about the same as last year, and much higher than 1952 and 1953. Last year, 79,801 students were on double sessions, while in 1953-54, there were 52,223 and in 1952-53, 54,235.

Local school officials have announced plans for construction of eight new elementary schools which they hope will be completed by the start of the 1956-57 school year. The addition of these schools to the Torrance Unified School District will sharply cut the number of local students on double session, they indicated.

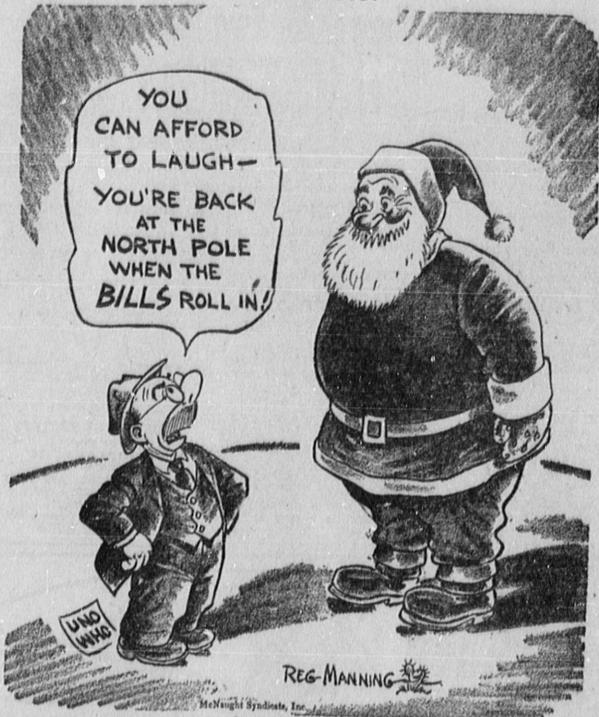
By grade, the students are as follows:

Grade	Torrance		Los Angeles Co.	
	Total	Double Session	Total	Double Session
Kind.	1953	0	86,073	4781
1	1880	1275	90,791	25,465
2	1654	1224	83,720	20,147
3	1499	1305	78,375	13,698
4	1458	695	65,240	6340
5	1146	225	65,813	4125
6	1110	143	65,448	2834
7 & 8	2034	0	123,880	2333
Total	15,377	4867	659,340	79,723

LIL' ABNER



Ho-Ho-Ho!



The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHIE, Herald Staff Writer

As long as boys are boys and there are exciting new places to explore, there will probably be tragedies such as the one which occurred in the Palos Verdes Hills.

Eleven-year-old Billy Bomersback drowned in a crater on the Chandler Sand and Gravel property after trying to save his dog. The place where he drowned was well-fenced, but in the time-honored tradition of youngsters, Billy and his two pals climbed over the six-foot barrier.

On a lark, the trio had decided to explore the interesting wild territory in the gravel pits and craters and throw rocks at the mudhens which light on the water there.

It's nothing that 90 per cent of the boy population and a considerable portion of the girls too haven't done at one time or another. Most of the time, nothing happens to them, but once in a while, as in this instance, a tragedy follows.

How can such tragedies be prevented? There seems to be no simple answer to this problem. The city has acted to enforce fencing of dangerous oil dumps in the area, and banned further clay digging in the north Torrance area, largely to safeguard curious youngsters. Dangerous machinery also, for the most part, is fenced in Torrance.

Even these safeguards won't protect the young Tom-Sawyers and Huckleberry Finns from themselves. Exploring is a part of growing up and for a child, there is nothing more

challenging. Children can't be kept in the house or yard all the time and parents can't be with their offspring constantly. Besides, very few parents want their sons to be Little Lord Fauntleroy.

For city boys especially, a chance to get out into the wilds is an exciting experience, offering a chance to "rough it," or at least pretend that they are being Davy Crockett, or Daniel Boone, or Buffalo Bills.

Parents usually caution their children to watch out for dangerous situations and not to trespass. Many times, these warnings go unheeded.

The Police, too, seek to prevent such mishaps, but they can't be everywhere at once. Schools can tell youngsters to be careful, but the care-free call of the wild is often stronger to a youngster than warnings.

The city enacts ordinances to safeguard children, but these only go so far. Companies which have dangerous excavations or machinery may fence them in or otherwise safeguard them, but in Friday's tragedy, such measures are not always effective.

And recreation programs can't be going all the time. The answer, if there is one, seems to be that it is everybody's business, any time, anywhere unsafe conditions exist to look for safety hazards and warn children to beware. Other than that, Junior must be on his own. Growing up is a wonderful and frightening and dangerous experience, both for Junior and for his parents.

The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

Note to the mayor: Did you read what that San Francisco mayor did? He put bourbon in the press room water fountain.

And, while we are on the subject of bourbon, we might as well pass on the formula for success sent to us last week by Sophie Hoffman over on Post Ave. The way she heard it, it goes like this:

The Rev. William H. Alexander, of Oklahoma City, said he heard this advice on drinking from "a guy in Detroit." If you absolutely cannot refrain from drinking, start a saloon in your own home. Be the only customer, and you will not have to buy a license. Give your wife \$12 to buy a gallon of whiskey.

There are 128 snorts to a gallon. Buy all your drinks from your wife at 40 cents a snort. In four days, when the gallon is gone, your wife will have \$39.20 to put in the bank and \$12 to start business again.

Now, if you live 10 years, and continue to buy all your booze from your wife, and then die with snakes in your boots, your widow will have \$35,075.49 on deposit—enough to bury you respectably, bring up your children, buy a house and lot, marry a decent man, and forget she ever knew you.

... and I Quote

"Why not go out on a limb? Isn't that where the fruit is?" —Frank Scully.

"It's the sad truth that too often the woman who's easy on the eyes is hard on the nerves." —J. O. Jewett.

"Love your enemies. I'll sure make them feel silly!" Craig (Colo.) Empire-Courier.

"Our town didn't have much get up and go—and if you did get up, there was no place to go!" —Herb Shriner.

"When a man and woman marry, they become one. The trouble starts when they try to decide which one!" —Mary McCoy.

By Al Capp

Glazed Glances

By BARNEY GLAZER

On Jane Wyman's recent TV show, she portrayed a school teacher who was threatened by a criminal. One of her alert students saved her and afterwards: Miss Wyman said "What can I do to repay you? Is there anything you want?" Faster than you can ring a school bell, the kid answered: "No homework!" ... I phoned a business associate and with easy informality his firm's switchboard operator said: "He isn't in but I'll get you to his desk." "Thanks very much, my dear," I acknowledged. "That should be quite an experience. I've never talked to a desk before."

My conduct may bring ostracism, and I may even be placed outside the pale of society by the paragons of dignity and respect, but I must report the news, so forgive me, dear folks. A radio poll company telephoned thousands of men all over the country and asked them this question: "To whom are you listening at the moment?" Approximately 99 1/2 per cent of the men answered: "My wife."

Eddie Cantor tells me a story which emanated from the East during the recent tragic floods. "More than anything else," says Cantor, "this story proves we have a heritage that no flood can wash away—the American sense of humor." The story goes that a man was sitting on the roof watching the flood waters rage past his home. A neighbor rowed across to him. "Hello, Bill," said the neighbor.

"Hello, Sam." "All your fowls washed away this morning?" "Yes, but the ducks can swim." "Your apple trees gone?" "Yes, but everyone said the crop would be a failure this year." "I see the river's rising above your windows." "That's all right. The windows really needed washing, anyway."

Jimmy Durante says he went to a concert and rubbed elbows with Iturbid, Shostakovich and Rubinstein. He had to rub elbows, admits Jimmy. They wouldn't shake hands with him ... Football fans, who are using an escalator at the Los Angeles Coliseum, are being ribbed by their former schoolmates who stand below and yell: "Sissy!" ... In sharp contrast, a regular football fan we know prefers to walk up the continuous stairway steps backwards! "That way,"

thought which would have us believe that grass never grows on a busy street. For Mike points to the Lafayette street bridge as one of the most traveled bits of road in Tampa, and there in plain sight is a patch of grass, high enough to mow and flourishing with tongue in cheek between the steel interstices of a corner of the bridge.

There's a warning in the new wrap-around windshield. If you're a reckless driver, you will get it wrapped around your neck.

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he maintains, "I make myself think I'm walking down."

Did you ever play the game of auto poker, using the license plate numbers of passing cars? Well, the kids of today are playing a different game called "Shoesies." The gals who wear those high-heeled shoes with the straps just above the heels are their playing cards. One lad picks the "falling straps" and the other lad takes the "straps in place."

If three out of the next five gals to pass with the heel strap shoes have walked out of their straps and are clomping along trying to stay in their shoes as best they can then the lad who picked "falling straps" is the winner. Gives the kids a good laugh, too, because there's nothing funnier than watching a woman trying to stay inside her shoe without the help of her heel strap.

A newsboy shuffled through a restaurant trying to sell his wares when a diner called him over and said: "Here, lad, is 25 cents. I don't want your paper. Just get me a menu. ... At a recent football game, a dozen college bands played "The Star Spangled Banner." A young girl exclaimed: "Wasn't it wonderful, the way they all finished together?" and her male escort replied: "I'm sure was, especially when you stop to consider that they didn't start together."

In the movie, "Good Morning, Miss Dove," Robert Stack's grammar is depleted as a heavy beer drinker who is fatally injured by an automobile. During the last rites, a neighbor remarks: "I wonder what she'd say if she knew it was a beer truck that hit her?" ... Mister, if you are a former newsboy, are you, spreading sunshine and happiness among the newsboys of today? Next time you pass a young lad with a sheet of papers under his arms, buy a paper from him and watch him smile. Then drop him a small tip of five cents or a dime and watch his eyes light up like two full moons.

Torrance Herald

ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914
Published Semi-Weekly at Torrance, California, Thursday and Monday.
Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

1619 Gramercy Ave.
FA 8-4000



KING WILLIAMS, Publisher
GLENN W. PFEIL, General Mgr.
REID L. BUNDY, Managing Editor

Adjudicated a legal Newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Adjudicated Decree No. 218470, March 23, 1927.

MEMBER CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE MEMBER

Subscription Rates:
By Carrier, 30c a Month.
Mail Subscriptions \$3.60 per year. Circulation office FAIR fax 8-4004.

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1. Paran	36. Japanese unit of measure	1. Pillam	2. Exist
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3. Instrument	38. Positive pronoun	3. Short	4. Long-tailed bird
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THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS
Aptos Features Syndicate

Holiday Cash Request

LOANS MADE IN Amounts up to \$1,000.00

Bring to our office for immediate attention, subject to our credit requirements.

I CAN USE \$..... WILL CALL..... DATE.....

NAME..... ADDRESS.....

MODEL FINANCE COMPANY of California
1620 Cravens Ave., Torrance - FA 8-7781
1743 American Ave., Long Beach - HE 5-4865
(New L.B. Office - at Pacific Coast Hwy.)

HOLIDAY MONEY

Fill in the amount you want and your name and address on the Holiday Cash Request above. Then bring or mail it to our office. Money for Holiday expenses, unpaid bills and other needs may be yours in 24 hours! Everything is private - payments are tailored to your pocketbook. Use your coupon today! For fastest service, phone me right now.

The Manager